

REMARKS

The final office action issued by Examiner Wang and the citations referred to in the Office Action have been carefully considered. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections set forth by the Examiner. Prompt reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections are courteously requested in view of the following remarks.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner withdrew newly presented claims 17-20 from consideration, stating that they were directed to an independent or distinct invention from the invention originally claimed because they are identical to withdrawn claims 5-8. Applicants respectfully traverse this characterization. Claims 17-20 depend from pending claim 13 and therefore cannot be independent or distinct from the invention claimed in independent claim 13. Therefore the withdrawal is without basis and these claims should be examined in this case. Accordingly the finality of the Office Action is improper as all properly pending claims have not been examined. The finality of the Office Action should also be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 13 and 16 stand finally rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,885,412 to Ohnishi. The Examiner alleges that “Ohnishi discloses a TFT array layer interposed between the front and rear glass plates and at least one thermal sensor (8) integral to the TFT array layer (when positioned on the ‘1a’ surface), (col. 8, line 63 - col. 9, line 6; col. 12, line 54 - col. 13, line 2) to provide temperature sensing of the layer of liquid crystals (col. 10, lines 5-9; col. 12, lines 54-63).”

On closer examination of these quoted passages, and each of the Figures 1, 3, and 5, in particular, note first that the temperature application layer 8 is, in Figure 1, Figure 3, and Figure 5, shown as a planar ITO heater layer positioned on substrate 2 spaced three layers away from the TFT array layer, which is shown formed on substrate 1. In the text, Ohnishi does state that

the temperature application layer 8 may be formed on any one or more of the surfaces 1 or 2, or beneath or above the TFT array layer made up of lines 11 and 12, devices 13, and electrodes 14. Further, column 10, lines 10-18 indicate that the temperature detection may be accomplished by simply measuring the resistance of the ITO film, wherever it is positioned. These ITO films are separate structures in Ohnishi. The ITO temperature application layer 8 may even be placed beneath the TFT array layer. That does NOT make it integral with the TFT array layer. Such a configuration would be adjacent to, not integral with, the TFT array layer. Nowhere in Ohnishi is there any suggestion that the temperature detection or sensor is **integral** to the TFT array layer as is set forth in Applicants' claim 13. The passages quoted by the Examiner, and the entire Ohnishi disclosure, simply do not support such an assertion. For this reason, the rejection of claim 13, as well as the rejection of claim 16 cannot stand. The rejection of claims 13 and 16 should be withdrawn

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claim 14 is rejected as obvious over Ohnishi in view of Mühlemann citing an array of diodes as thermal sensors. However, the diodes in Mühlemann are separate and distinct, and there is no disclosure or suggestion of integrating them into the TFT array layer within an LCD display as Applicants claim. Thus, Mühlemann does not make up for the deficiencies of Ohnishi. This rejection therefore should also be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 13, 14, and 16-20 are pending in the application. This response is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed and that the application is in order for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

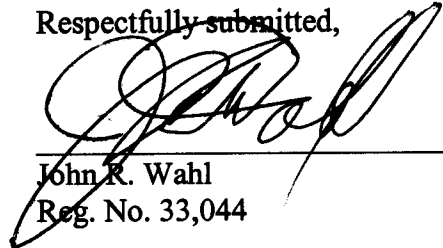
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Attorney Docket Number 73538.020501 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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